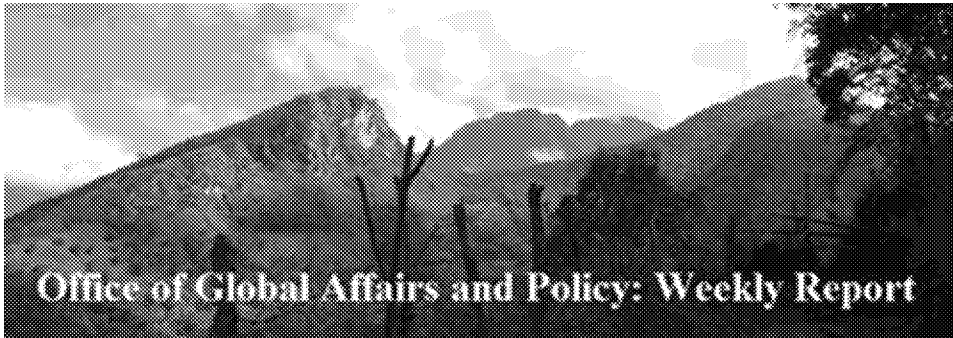


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**Subject:** OGAP Weekly Report: September 15-21

## **OFFICE OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS AND POLICY**

### **September 21, 2017**



#### **EPA Gives Presentations on Lead Paint at Department of Commerce Meeting of Standards Officials from Central Asia**

On September 15 EPA (OITA, OGC, OCSPP) gave presentations at a lead paint session as part of a meeting of standards officials from Central Asia in Washington, DC, hosted by the Commerce Commercial Law Development Program. Participants included government representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, and the international paint industry. Lead paint issues had been introduced at a previous meeting in March 2017 and standards officials asked for additional detail on lead paint for this meeting. EPA gave an overview of lead paint and provided information about a newly developed model law for lead paint and provided case study examples of how other countries around the world are addressing lead paint. Levels of lead in paint are very high in the Central Asian region, with some samples being higher than 10,000 ppm (90 ppm is the U.S. standard). The industry association also gave a presentation about methods of compliance. Tajikistan reported that since the last meeting, it has developed a proposal for a laboratory to sample for lead in paint and are very interested in developing a law. Kazakhstan is spearheading the development of a lead paint law in the Eurasian Economic Union and would like to strengthen it, based on EPA's presentation. Commerce anticipates that this issue will remain of interest to this group and will facilitate additional follow up. [Smith, Bandemehr]

#### **Draft Voluntary Commitments for the Third UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3)**

UN Environment is seeking pledges or voluntary commitments from governments, the private sector and civil society to be presented at UNEA-3 this December. EPA staff are working to develop pledges that reflect administration priorities for UNEA-3. In the coming weeks EPA will work closely with the State Department to finalize and submit these pledges. [Smith, Finman, Besch, Bandemehr, Mercurio]

#### **EPA Submits Comments on Draft US Water Quality Resolution for the Third Environment Assembly (UNEA-3)**

EPA (OITA and OW) provided feedback and comments on the draft US Water Quality Resolution for UNEA-3, circulated by the State Department. The draft resolution would enhance the work of the UN Environment Program to promote the development and strengthening of a water quality monitoring program and data sharing. Draft resolutions for UNEA-3 must be submitted by the end of the week. [Finman, Besch]

#### **Champions 12.3 Meeting at Rockefeller Foundation**

OITA attended a meeting of "Champions 12.3" hosted by the Rockefeller Foundation and organized by the World Resources Institute, the Secretariat for the Champions 12.3 initiative. Champions 12.3 is a coalition of senior executives from private companies, government and NGOs who are committed to advance the global SDG Target 12.3 to cut global

food waste in half by 2030 and reduce food loss across the supply chain, including post-harvest loss. Highlights from the event included the announcement by the Global Agri-business Alliance of its recent Food and Agricultural Product Resolution under which its membership will seek to reduce food loss in their operations by 2030. This corresponds to the 50 percent cut in food waste announced by the global Consumer Goods Forum in 2015. The Champions also released its 2017 Progress Report on SDG 12.3, a “Roadmap to Achieving SDG Target 12.3”, and the announcement of a new “Call to Action to Standardize Food and Date Labels Worldwide by 2020” put forward by the Consumer Goods Forum, to address food waste attributed to confusion surrounding food date labels, and the announcement of several new prominent members, including the head of the Rockefeller Foundation. [MacDonald]

#### **EPA discusses Waste, Wastewater and Lead Paint with Delegation from Bangladesh Environment Ministry**

This week EPA (OW, OLEM, OITA) spoke with officials from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Department of Environment, who were visiting Washington, DC, as part of a World Bank project. The officials were accompanied by World Bank staff in the environmental management program. OLEM gave an overview of municipal and hazardous waste management practices and sustainable materials management policies to address waste along the entire lifecycle. OW provided a summary of US surface and drinking water regulations and policies. OITA/OGAP focused on elements to ensure an effective lead paint law, which Bangladesh is in the process of finalizing. The officials found the information very helpful and EPA will follow up with additional information and assistance. They specifically requested assistance with their lead paint law. [Bandemehr, Harnisch, Novikoff, Dieu]

#### **OITA and OW Meeting with Region 9 on Marine Litter**

EPA met with Region 9 representatives to discuss domestic and international efforts to reduce marine litter. OITA provided information about its international efforts, including work in Jamaica, Peru, the G7, and the UN Environment Program, as well as a CEC project that includes San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico. Region 9 scientists also discussed ongoing work to understand the human health effects from eating fish contaminated with plastic constituents and the potential impacts of plastic in drinking water. [Smith]

#### **EPA Meeting with Region 9 on the Development of a Mexican Emissions Control Area**

OITA and Region 9 met to discuss ongoing efforts with the enforcement of the North American ECA, and the possible future enforcement of a Mexican ECA, working with the Coast Guard and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). OITA also provided background and the current status of efforts to submit a proposal for Mexico to become a party to MARPOL Annex VI and submit an ECA proposal to the IMO. The Mexican ECA would contain the same standards as the North American ECA, and would improve air quality in the southwest U.S. The Mexican ECA and the North American ECA together would form a contiguous ECA from the tip of Mexico to Alaska, saving tens of thousands of lives per year. [Smith]